An Impartial Account of the Proceedings of the *Common-Hall* of the City of *London*, at *Guild-Hall*, *June* the 24th, 1682. For *Electing* of Sheriffs for the ſaid City and County of *Middleſex*, &c.

THere having happened ſeveral unuſual *Practices in the Conduct of Affairs, touching the* Election *of* SHERIFFS *for the year enſuing, it may be very expedient for General Satisfaction, due Information of the Citizens of the true State of Things, and Checking Falſe and Uncertain* Reports, *to give a plain and* Impartial *Account of the whole Affair.*

I. AT the *Bridge-Houſe* Feaſt, the 18th of *May* laſt, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor was pleaſed to paſs the Complement of DRINKING to *Dudley North* Eſq; A Ceremony whereby the Perſon ſo *drank to*, has been look'd upon as put in *Nomination*, or to be in the Judgment of the *Chair* a very fit man to be one of the Sheriffs, if the Common-Hall ſhall *Elect* him.

II. Soon after, Mr. *North*, before he was choſen by the Common-Hall, and indeed a conſiderable time before the day of *Election*, meerly upon ſuch my Lords Drinking to him, came to a Court of Alderman, and gave Bond to hold Sheriff.

III. The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor the beginning of laſt week iſſues forth his Precept to the Reſpective *Companies*; but it ran in an unaccuſtomed form, as followeth:

By the Mayor.

THeſe are to require you, That on Midſummer-*day next, being the day appointed as well for* Confirmation *of the Perſon* WHO HATH BEEN BY ME CHOSEN, *according to the Ancient Cuſtom and Conſtitution of this City, To be* One *of the Sheriffs of this City and County of* Middleſex *for the year enſuing; as for the* Election *of the other of the ſaid Sheriffs, and other Officers; you cauſe the* Livery *of your Company to meet together at your* Common-Hall *early in the Morning, and from thence to come together decently and orderly in their Gowns to* Guild-Hall, *there to make the ſaid Confirmation and Election. Given the Nineteenth of* June, 1682. JOHN MOOR.

This occaſioned much diſcourſe, and ſome diſtraction amongſt the Companies; ſome iſſuing out their Summons to their Members, *To meet and chuſe Sheriffs, &c.* (as antiently) others (after this new mode) for *Confirmation* and *Election*; and ſome only, for *Electing City-Officers.*

IV. On *Friday* the 23d inſtant, the matter being taken into debate at the Court of Aldermen, after ſome time it was deſired, That Mr. *Recorder* would deliver his Sentiment; who in a Judicious Speech gave his opinion, That *the Right of Election of Both the Sheriffs, lay in the Commonalty*; And that the Sheriffs *pro tempore* were Judges of the *Poll*, if any were. And the whole Court acquieſced therein. Whereupon ſome *Companies* that had ſent forth Summons for *Confirmation* and *Election*, awarded new ones for *Election* only.

V. On Midſummer day (the Annual appointed time for Choice,) the *Livery-men* Aſſembled in Common-Hall very numerous. And after the Lord Mayor and Aldermen were come upon the Huſtings, the Common Cryer made Proclamation and ſaid to this Purpoſe, *You Gentlemen of the Livery of London attend your Confirmation.* Upon which the Common Hall vigorouſly interrupted, and Cry'd, *No Confirmation! No Confirmation!* and ſo continued urging their Right in that behalf near half an hour, not ſuffering him to go on. After which, Mr. Recorder ſtept upon the Huſtings and made a *Speech*, wherein he ſet forth the Excellency of Government in general, and the happineſs particularly of our *own*, and eſpecially of this Great and Opulent *City*, more immediately as to their great priviledge of Chuſing their *own Sheriffs*, Citing for the ſame the Grant in the Charter of King *John*, *&c.*

VI. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen then withdrew, and Mr. Common Serjeant offering to ſpeak, the Common-Hall Cry'd---*Election! Election! And the work of the day!* But the Sheriffs deſiring their Patience, He went on, and ſpake a few Words, relating in general to the buſineſs of the Day.

VII. The *Hall* then proceeded in the uſual Antient Method, and the Conteſt about *Confirmation* being relinquiſht, There were put in Nomination for Sheriffs, The before Named *Dudly North*, *Thomas Papillion*, *John Dubois*, and *Ralph Box*, Eſquires.

Upon view of the Hands, The Election was declared to fall upon Mr. *Papillion* and Mr. *Dubois*, they having apparently the Majority by 1000 or 1200 Hands. But however a *Poll* was demanded and granted for all the ſaid four Candidates.

VIII. Then the *Hall* proceeded to the Election of Chamberlain, and beſides Sir *Thomas Player*, on Mr. *Wandal* a Woollen Draper in *Fleetſtreet* was put up, but Sir *Thomas* was (almoſt) unanimously Choſen, The latter not having above nine or ten Hands. After which Auditors of the Chamber and Bridgehouſe Accounts and Bridgemaſters were Choſen, As alſo *Ale-Conners*, of whom the three Survivers were again Choſen, but in the Room of *William Robinſon*, lately Deceaſed, there were ſeveral Pretenders, But Mr. *John Farthing* an old Servant in the *Exciſe Office*, lately turned out of his place as a *Diſſenter*, carried it by a Vaſt diſparity of Hands.

IX. After which there was an Addreſs Preſented, returning the Thanks of the Common-Hall to Alderman *Pilkington*, and Mr. *Shute*, the two preſent Sheriffs, for their Faithful and Upright diſcharge of their Truſt and Office in this time of Difficulty and Danger, As alſo to the Common Council and Committee for managing the Defence of the Charter againſt the late *Quo Warranto*, Which was Read very Audibly by Mr. Common Serjeant, and chearfully aſſented to and acknowledged by the Common-Hall. And then the Sheriffs made their Report of the whole Proceedure to the Court of Aldermen.

X. Between two and three a Clock the *Poll* began, Eight or nine Books and Writers being prepared in *Guild-Hall Yard*, and Perſons appointed to Inſpect them on either ſide. It was deſired by ſome that a diſtinct Colume might be for ſuch as were for *Confirmation*, but that being before Reſolved in the *Negative*, and the only Diſpute now not being for or againſt *Confirmation*, but which two of the four Gentlemen ſhould be Choſen by the Common-Hall for Sheriffs, the ſame was refuſed as Impracticable and Impertinent; But all left at Liberty to *Poll* for which of the four Competitors they pleaſed. Yet ſome few Factious and Troubleſome men only to create occaſion for Cavil, demanded to be *Polled* for *Confirmation* (as they call'd it) yet refuſed to declare *who* they would Confirm, or Name any that they would *Poll* for, and yet Complained to the Court of Aldermen, and ſome of them (as particularly Mr. *Maſters* in St. *Pauls* Church Yard) offered to make Oath that they were denyed or refuſed to be *Polled*.

It was to be taken Notice of, That there were Fluttering up and down the *Hall*, a great many Sword-men and Hectoring Perſons (no Citizens) who inſolently Affronted People, As ſome of them did Mr. *Recorder*; and others, ſome of the Aldermen and Citizens; giving unreaſonable and almoſt inſufferable Provocations, eſpecially in the Afternoon. On purpoſe (as tis reaſonably believed) to cauſe ſome Diſturbance. But the Moderation of the Citizens was ſuch, as ſcorned to take Notice of theſe fooliſh Extravagants, further than modeſtly to reprove their want of reſpect to Authority, and their Incivility.

XI. It appearing that the *Suffrages* were likely to fall upon *Papillion* and *Dubois*, ſeveral that were for *North* and *Box* applyed themſelves to my Lord Mayor, ſuggeſting as if they were denyed to *Poll*, and that many of their party were abſent, and the like Complaints, which occaſioned his Lordſhips coming to the *Hall*, (ſome People following very rudely with *Huzza's* and unuſal Clamour.) His Honour ſending for the Sheriffs into the *Council Chamber*, they Excuſed themſelves for the preſent, being buſy in the Work of the Day, but promiſed to wait on his Lordſhip, or ſoon as the *Poll* Concluded. His Lordſhip came to the *Polling* place, and ſeemed to forbid the further proceeding in the *Poll*, but the Sheriffs offered ſeveral Reaſons why they ought to go on, being in the Legal diſcharge of their Office, and ſo proceeded.

XII. About ſeven a Clock in the Evening the Mayor and ſome *few* Aldermen came to the Huſtings (the Sheriffs being ſtill *Polling* in the Yard) where the Common *Cryer* by Direction from his Lordſhip ſpake to the promiſcuous Company in the the *Hall*, to this effect; *All you that were Summoned to appear here this day, are required to depart, and to give your attendance on Tueſday at nine a Clock in the Morning.* But omitting to mention the Occaſion, ſome of the People----askt *for what?* But the generalty called a *Poll*, a *Poll*. However his Lordſhip being gone, the Sheriffs continued the *Poll* as before, intending for the eaſe of their *Fellow Citizens* to have diſpatcht it that Night, but it growing neer nine a Clock at Night, and there being preſent ſome ſmall number of Perſons, who then unſeaſonably demanded to be *Poll'd*. The Sheriffs thought fit to Adjourn into the *Hall* for half an Hour. In which time there were Aſſembled in the Great *Hall*, Three or four Thouſand People, Calling out *a Hall! a Hall! a Hall!* Until the Sheriffs came upon the Huſtings, and then Mr. Sheriff *Shute* ſpake to this Effect. *Gentlemen we have had a* Poll *to day, and we the Sheriffs, as we are the Kings Miniſters, ſo we have done and will Act therein with all* Fairneſs *and* Honeſty, *as becomes us. My Lord Mayor hath taken upon him to Adjourn this Court. But we do now tell you, That we do Adjourn this Court until Tueſday Morning nine a Clock, then to declare the* Poll, *or to* Poll *any ſuch as have Right to* Poll, *and have not yet poll'd already.*

Then the Sheriffs went home attended with great Multitudes of Citizens, following them with Loud and Grateful Acclamations, of, *God Bleſs the Proteſtant Sheriffs, God bleſs* Papillion *and* Dubois, *&c.* And ſo the Affair reſts until *Tueſday* morning; At which time tis believed as well moſt of thoſe who have already *Poll'd*, as ſuch others as have Right and are yet to *Poll*, will appear; it ſo importantly Concerning all Citizens to ſtand by their Juſt Rights and Priviledges, and not to ſuffer the ſame to be Invaded or Infringed in any kind.

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